United Nations S/2003/343

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 March 2003

Original: English

Letter dated 19 March 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the letter from His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, in his capacity as Chairman of the Ninth Islamic Summit Conference, addressed to Your Excellency.

I should be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nassir Abdullaziz **Al-Nasser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 19 March 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

The growing fears raised by the prospect of an outbreak of war in Iraq, which could aggravate the situation in a region that continues to be plagued by the abuses perpetrated by the Israeli occupier in the Palestinian territories, ongoing violations of United Nations resolutions by the Israeli forces and the sufferings of the Palestinian people, were the principal reason for the convening of an extraordinary session of the Summit of States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on 5 March 2000 at Doha.

In view of my responsibilities as Chairman of the Islamic Summit Conference, I felt that it was incumbent on me to inform you of the decisions taken at the Summit so that you might bring them to the attention of the members of the Security Council, who could then take our position into account when considering the aforementioned questions. Participants at the extraordinary session reaffirmed that the diplomatic and peaceful efforts being made with a view to the elimination of weapons of mass destruction must be given a chance, categorically rejected the principle of a war against Iraq and stressed that Iraq must apply the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

With regard to the Palestinian question, the leaders of Islamic States called upon the United Nations and the Security Council to assume their responsibilities. compel Israel to end its ongoing aggression, ensure necessary protection for the Palestinian people, allow that people to exercise its legitimate and inalienable national rights, foremost of which is the right to establish an independent State with its capital in the Holy City of Jerusalem, and ensure the implementation of United Nations resolutions, including Security Council 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

(*Signed*) Hamad bin Khalifa **Al-Thani**
Emir of the State of Qatar
Chairman of the Ninth Islamic Summit Conference